

OREGON MANUFACTURER IS CHANGING THE FACE OF THE
APPAREL INDUSTRY

ABOUT THE RENEWAL WORKSHOP LLC. The Renewal Workshop was founded by Nicole and Jeff to combat waste in the apparel industry. Jeff and Nicole saw a need to create a sustainable system to manage apparel waste and get the full value from garments. Their start-up operation repairs, upcycles and recycles damaged clothing and sells them via their on-line marketplace. Building a network of garment manufacturers such as Prana, Northface, Toad&Co, Ibex and Mountain Khakis, The Renewal Workshop collects garments that have been soiled, need repair or are otherwise un-sellable in their present condition. They repair the flaw(s) to like-new condition prior to returning the items to the manufacturer, or to sell them online to consumers. Garments that are not repairable are upcycled or recycled so that almost no garments end up in a landfill.

THE CHALLENGE. Nicole and Jeff spent significant time developing their idea from inside the apparel industry. They understood manufacturing and factories, but knew that remanufacturing apparel is very different. After locating a space in the Cascade Locks overlooking the scenic Columbia River and strategically connected to the port, The Renewal Workshop needed assistance setting up their factory and turned to Oregon Best and OMEP. This included placing equipment, reconfiguring the existing layout, and setting up for lean manufacturing.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. OMEP developed a comprehensive facility and material flow study, using various tools such as Value Stream Mapping. Through a detailed CAD layout, OMEP addressed all the aspects of preparing the facility for efficient and lean manufacturing. The proactive stance of The Renewal Workshop and the support of Oregon Best allowed OMEP to gear them up for success.

In addition to the detailed CAD model of the building site, OMEP modeled specific equipment location and placement, identified utility requirements and structural needs, (such as flooring/foundations). This required unique consideration since The Renewal Workshop cleaning process utilizes specialized C02 environmentally friendly equipment that eliminates the use of water and drying time in the cleaning cycle. Finally, OMEP worked closely with the general contractor and The Renewal Workshop staff to provide a coordinated summation of the project.

With the assistance of OMEP and Oregon Best, the Renewal Workshop was able to get off the ground very quickly. In 9 months The Renewal Workshop went from idea to a producing factory. Recently, The Renewal Workshop has expanded their 7,500 sqft facility to include the rest of their building space. Additionally, they utilize a new building next to their existing facility for a total square footage of 13,500 sq. ft.

"The Renewal Workshop team is incredibly grateful for the time and attention the team at OMEP gave us throughout the process. We were able to expedite the launch of our company because of their expertise specific to manufacturing."

-Nicole Basset, Co-Owner

RESULTS



\$1 million investment



23 new or retained jobs



42,000 lbs of textile waste
diverted from landfill



E-Commerce Site Launched;
Special Partnership Site
NorthFace Renewed
Launched 2018

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